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MCNAMARA VIETNAM REPORT

PEKING NCNA INTERNATIONAL SERVICE IN ENGLISH 1841Z 22 JUL 65 W

(TEXT) PEKING--U.S. SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ROBERT S. MCNAMARA YESTERDAY DISCUSSED THE SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM WITH PRESIDENT JOHNSON IMMEDIATELY UPON HIS RETURN FROM SAIGON, ACCORDING TO REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON.

AFTER A FIVE-DAY "FACT FINDING" TRIP TO SOUTH VIETNAM, MCNAMARA ADMITTED AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE WASHINGTON AIRPORT YESTERDAY THAT THE STRENGTH OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE'S ARMED FORCES HAS "INCREASED DRAMATICALLY" SINCE HIS PREVIOUS "VISIT" A YEAR AGO, AND THE "SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM HAS DETERIORATED."

MCNAMARA SAID THAT HE AND HENRY CABOT LODGE, NEWLY APPOINTED U.S. "AMBASSADOR" TO SOUTH VIETNAM, AND EARLE G. WHEELER, CHAIRMAN OF THE U.S. JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF, WOULD REPORT THEIR "OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS" FROM THEIR VISIT TO SOUTH VIETNAM TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. HE DECLINED TO REVEAL THE CONTENTS OF HIS RECOMMENDATION. HE INDICATED IN HIS REMARKS, HOWEVER, THAT HE WOULD SUGGEST THAT LARGE NUMBERS OF U.S. ARMED FORCES BE DISPATCHED TO SOUTH VIETNAM. HE SAID THERE WERE "ABOUT 165,000 GUERRILLAS IN SOUTH VIETNAM FACING NO MORE THAN 500,000 REGULAR AND PARAMILITARY GOVERNMENT FORCES, AND THIS IS QUITE AN UNACCEPTABLE RATION OF ANTIGUERRILLA TO GUERRILLA STRENGTH."

JOHNSON SUMMONED HIS TOP MILITARY AND POLITICAL ADVISERS TO HEAR AND DISCUSS MCNAMARA'S REPORT.

THE MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY JOHNSON, MCNAMARA, LODGE AND WHEELER, AS WELL AS SECRETARY OF STATE DEAN RUSK, UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE GEORGE BALL, DEPUTY DEFENSE SECRETARY CYRUS VANCE, SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER MCGEORGE BUNDY, ASSISTANT STATE SECRETARY FOR FAR EASTERN AFFAIRS WILLIAM BUNDY, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS JOHN MCNAUGHTON, CIA DIRECTOR WILLIAM RABORN, AND OTHERS.

WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY MOYERS SAID THAT THE MEETING WAS HELD CHIEFLY TO HEAR MCNAMARA'S REPORT ON THE GENERAL SITUATION AND WAR DEVELOPMENTS IN VIETNAM, ADDING THAT THE PARTICIPANTS WERE "DISCUSSING IN GREAT DETAIL ALL OF THE ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEMS WE FACE IN SOUTH VIETNAM" SO THAT "A THOROUGH AND PENETRATING REVIEW" OF THE VIETNAM SITUATION WAS MADE. A SERIES OF MEETINGS WOULD FOLLOW IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS, HE SAID.

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